

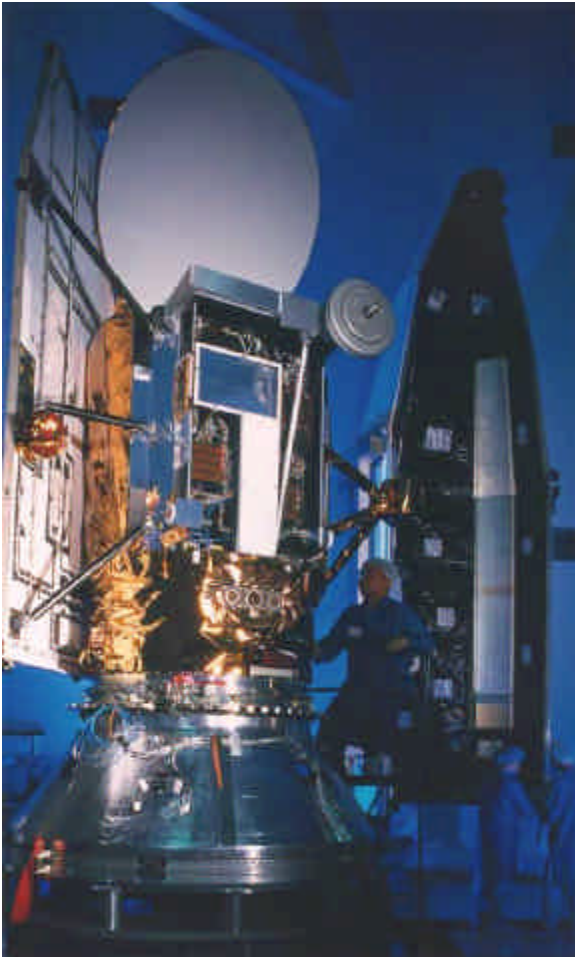


News Release

Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Office
Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command
4301 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-524-3470 Fax: 619-524-3469

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Memorandum for Correspondents Navy GeoSat Follow-On Satellite to Launch Monday



SAN DIEGO -- The U.S. Navy is scheduled to launch the GeoSat meteorological/oceanographic satellite between 5:19 a.m. and 7:38 a.m. Monday February 9th from Vandenberg AFB atop an Orbital Sciences Corporation Taurus launch vehicle.

The San Diego-based Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Meteorological and Oceanographic Systems Program Office is responsible for the acquisition and launch of the GeoSat Follow-On satellite (commonly referred to as GFO). Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. (BATC) is the prime contractor for GFO. The GFO mission will support US Navy, NOAA, NASA, and University ocean science and ocean monitoring.

The launch window for the GeoSat Follow-On has been widened to take advantage of the forecast good weather between the storms moving toward the California coast. A news media pre-launch availability at the Taurus site is planned for 2:00 p.m. Saturday. News Media should be prepared to depart the Vandenberg main gate at 2:00 p.m. Check in time for media covering the launch is 4:45 a.m. Monday at the Vandenberg AFB Visitor Center. A post-launch press conference is planned for 10:00 a.m. Monday at the Vandenberg Center.

A GFO fact sheet is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.spawar.navy.mil>

For more information contact:

Vandenberg AFB: Lt. Carol Kanode, 805-734-8232 extension 63595.

Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command: Richard Williamson, 619-524-3432.

Orbital Sciences Corporation, Barry Beneski, 703-406-5528.

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.: Barbara Darling, 303-460-2601.

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